



Gubernatorial Candidate

Mike Dewine

Republican

Incumbent

-What is the main priority of your administration?

We must bring economic prosperity and hope to every part of Ohio. We must improve our economic development efforts in Ohio and focus on every part of the state. To succeed in a tech-focused economy, we are investing substantially in career education, job training, and workforce development. We are closing the digital divide so that all Ohioans have access to high-speed Internet services, which will create opportunity for generations.

We must end the devastating opioid epidemic that is killing 15 Ohioans each day, flooding our foster care system with the children of addicts, and costing Ohio \$8 billion each year. I have a 12-point plan of action that includes K-12 drug prevention education in all schools, more resources for law enforcement to fight the Mexican drug cartels, and increased treatment for individuals. This also means investing in mental health. The bottom line is this: Ohioans with untreated addiction and mental illness will remain underemployed and unemployed, and so much potential – for people, for families, for our state – will be lost if we do not take action.

We must continue to improve early childhood education to reach all Ohio children. We need more kids who are Kindergarten-ready and must greatly increase the number of high-performing schools in Ohio. We need to ensure that every kid who graduates is job or college ready. To fail to do that is to fail our children.

-What do you see as the main challenges and opportunities for agriculture in Ohio?



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Supply chain disruptions and labor shortage facing the agriculture community adversely impacting capacity and slowing distribution, hurting both consumers and agriculture producers. My Administration is working to mitigate these challenges through grant funding and investing in infrastructure.

Additionally, to meet labor demands and upskill Ohio workers, my Administration is investing substantially in career education, job training, and workforce development. My Administration has funded more than 40,000 tech-focused credentials through the TechCred and IMAP programs, through which Ohioans can earn short-term credentials -- at no cost -- to unlock new career possibilities and rewarding, good-paying job opportunities. My Administration is also advancing Ohio's apprenticeship programs to give Ohioans clear paths into high-pay, high-skill careers. Over 19,000 Ohioans are currently in an apprenticeship, and Ohio is #1 in the Midwest and #3 nationally for the number of apprentices.

-What steps can be taken to prevent food supply disruptions in Ohio?

While food processors continue to see high demand, Ohio's local food supply chains remain strained due to the pandemic, labor shortage and other geo-political factors. My Administration is laser focused on mitigating these strains and funding projects that increase capacity, upgrade equipment and offer training.

My office recently set aside \$25 million in grants to strengthen local meat supply chains – the second time it's made that money available after the need for grants far exceeded the initial funding amount. This grant will help meat processors ramp up productivity with the goal that they can increase supply and lower costs for consumers.



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My Administration will continue to monitor challenges facing food supply, not just for meat, but for other critical food sectors to increase capacity and deliver assistance as needed. This also means ensuring Ohio has sound infrastructure to efficiently transport these essential goods to Ohio communities, which is why I directed \$237 million in federal infrastructure money toward local bridge projects. Additionally, I allocated \$110 million to help fund critical water projects in all of Ohio's 88 counties.

-What strategies can be deployed to ensure the next generation of agricultural producers are well-positioned to serve Ohio's needs and growing population?

Modern agriculture and agriscience are reliant upon technology and high speed broadband services to serve a growing population and meet the demands of the modern economy.

To best serve the next generation of agricultural producers and best position the Ohio agricultural community, my Administration is closing the digital divide so all Ohioans have access to high-speed Internet, which will create greater opportunity for generations across the state.

With an investment of \$232 million in grants, Broadband Ohio estimates that around 230,000 residents will gain access to high-speed internet. Giving our rural and underserved areas access will be a boon not only for local economies, but for farmers and agricultural producers.

To further unlock Ohio's potential and to best position Ohioans to succeed in a modern economy, we are investing substantially in career education, job training, and workforce development. The agricultural community has been an important partner in this mission.



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-What do you see as gaps in the protections for Ohio landowners, and how can those gaps be filled?

Balancing Ohio's agricultural priorities with development is critical. Ohio's Farmland Preservation program is an important tool in our efforts to protect farmland. We are proud of the program's recent accomplishments to eliminate the backlog in easements faced when we first took office. Promoting and growing the program is a top priority in our second term.

Ohio Department of Agriculture's Farmland Preservation Division maintains land in agricultural use for perpetuity by distributing grants to local governments, county soil water and conservation districts, and local land trusts to purchase agricultural easements from landowners via the Clean Ohio Program.

However, the story doesn't end there. We hear the questions and concerns from landowners across the state looking for additional tools to protect their farmland and ensure their property rights. We look forward to working with the OFBF and other stakeholders to clearly identify the gaps in our laws, rules and programs and to implement strategies to create thoughtful and appropriate planning in our local communities.

-How will your administration continue to expand opportunities for those in agriculture to promote best land management practices.

In one my first acts as governor, my Administration created the H2Ohio program, our comprehensive water quality program. Through H2Ohio we are investing an historic \$172 million dollars to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands and other critical water resources and infrastructure from Lake Erie to the Ohio River.



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With support from the legislature, the Ohio Agricultural Conservation Initiative, and the Ohio Farm Bureau, we are making an impact implementing science-based strategies to reduce phosphorus runoff in the Western Lake Erie Basin. We look forward to building on this program to help more producers adopt practices that not only benefit their farming operations but also improve Ohio soil and water.

We also are committed to appropriate watershed management. With state staff working collaboratively with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts, we can improve and protect the state's watersheds by supporting existing conservation activities and implementing new efforts.

Finally, H2Ohio has introduced Ohio agriculture to climate-smart agricultural opportunities that increase productivity while reducing emissions and contributing to climate resiliency. We look forward to continued collaborations with the OFBF and other agricultural partners to expand climate-smart practices on our farms and agricultural lands.